

Claims

1. A device for a motor vehicle (1), having at least one laser sensor (3), the laser sensor (3) comprising a device for sweeping, in a scanning area (2), at least one laser beam that can be emitted by the laser sensor (3), and comprising a power supply for the laser sensor, wherein the power of the laser beam that can be emitted by the laser sensor (3) can be varied as a function of the laser-beam direction.
2. The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the power, which can be supplied to the laser sensor (3) by the power supply, is variable and can be supplied as a function of the laser-beam direction.
3. The device as recited in Claim 2, wherein the scanning area (2) of the laser sensor is subdivided into segments (I, II, III) of different relevance, and the laser sensor can be supplied more power in segments (I) of higher detection relevance, and less power in areas (II, III) of lesser detection relevance.
4. The device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the characteristic curve (α) of the power varies continuously.
5. The device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the maximum power of the laser sensor (3) and/or the power characteristic across the scanning area (2) can be selected as a function of the motor-vehicle speed.
6. The device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the scanning area (2) of the laser sensor (3) can be traversed at different scanning speeds.

7. The device as recited in one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the maximum power of the laser sensor and/or the power characteristic across the scanning area (2) can be selected as a function of the distance of the, and/or the direction of the, and/or the type of object detected by the laser sensor.
8. A method for operating a laser sensor (3) of a motor vehicle (1), in a scanning range (2), using at least one laser beam, wherein the emitting power of the at least one laser beam is varied as a function of its beam direction.
9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the scanning area (2) of the laser sensor is subdivided into segments (I, II, III) of different detection relevance, and the at least one laser beam can be emitted at a higher beam power in segments (I) of higher detection relevance, and at a lower beam power in segments (II, III) of lesser detection relevance.
10. The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein the at least one laser beam is emitted at maximum beam power, in the direction of travel of the motor vehicle (1).
11. The method as recited in one of Claims 8 through 10, wherein the beam-power characteristic of the least one laser beam varies continuously.
12. The method as recited in one of Claims 8 through 11, wherein the maximum beam power of the at least one laser beam and/or the power characteristic of the at least one laser beam across the scanning area (2) is selected as a function of the vehicle speed.
13. The method as recited in one of Claims 8 through 12,

wherein the scanning area (2) of the laser sensor (3) is traversed at different scanning speeds.

14. The device as recited in one of Claims 8 through 13, wherein the maximum beam power of the at least one laser sensor and/or the power characteristic across the scanning area (2) is selected as a function of the distance of the, and/or the direction of the, and/or the type of object detected by the laser sensor (3).